

REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points raised by the Examiner in the Office Action and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

The application as examined includes claims 67 – 69, 72, and 78 – 100. In the present response, claims 67, 78, and 87 are amended. Claims 68, 72, 79 – 86, 88, and 90 – 96 are unchanged. Claims 69, 89, and 97 – 100 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 1 – 66, 70 – 71, 73 – 77, and 101 – 105 were previously canceled. No new claims are added.

Support for amendments to the claims is set forth hereinbelow, with reference to the application as published in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0218539:

The claimed feature recited in claims 67, 78, and 87 as “the series of operations reliably returns the variable to an assigned value” is disclosed *inter alia* in [0077].

Claims 67 – 69, 72, 78, 80, 82 – 83, 86 – 89, and 95 – 100 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,643,775 to Granger, et al. (“Granger”).

Claims 79, 81, 84, 85, and 90 – 94 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Granger in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0003278 of Chen, et al. (“Chen”).

The present invention provides obfuscated object code by substituting a variable in source code with a function of the variable, which the compiler replaces with a series of operations that generate the value of the variable. The variable value is thus obfuscated to appear as object code operations.

Granger describes generating obfuscated code by converting pre-specified types of operations such as additions, multiplications, logical operations, and moves, into larger numbers of constituent operations that accomplish the same result.

The Applicants are overcoming the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection by amending independent claims 67, 78, and 87 to more clearly emphasize the novel and inventive material therein. The Applicants respectfully submit that the cited prior art references, individually as

well as in combination, fail to show or suggest at least the following features recited in amended independent claims 67, 78, and 87:

substituting a variable in source code ... associated with a series of operations resulting in the assignment of the variable in a manner obfuscating such assignment;

wherein the series of operations reliably returns the variable to an assigned value.

The Office Action states that Granger discloses:

“substituting an assignment of a variable in source code...” (Office Action page 3).

The Applicants respectfully disagree with the above statement, in that Granger fails to disclose or reasonably suggest the substitution of a variable associated with a series of operations resulting in the assignment of the variable. Regarding variables, Granger discloses only:

“replacing names of variables with arbitrarily-assigned character sequences”  
[Granger col. 19 lines 49 – 50]

“The cross-compiler 160 also preferably generates tables that store input variables, temporary variables, constants, and other entities that are used by the obfuscated code, and imbeds these tables within the obfuscated source code file 162. [Granger col. 20 lines 31 – 35]”

The Applicants maintain that Granger’s generating of tables to *store* input variables, temporary variables and other entities used by obfuscated code, and embedding such tables within obfuscated source code is *not* equivalent to the *generating of sequences of operations to present the values of those variables*, as is done in the present invention. Granger thus fails to disclose or reasonably suggest this feature of the present invention as claimed in independent claims 67, 78, and 87

The Applicants therefore respectfully submit that amended independent claims 67, 78, and 87 are patentable over the art of record. The remainder of the claims each depend directly or ultimately from the amended independent claims, and therefore are also allowable over the art of record.

In view of the foregoing remarks, all of the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions about this paper or the associated application, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

Please charge any required fees due to this amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-0762.

Respectfully submitted,  
ROVI CORPORATION

Dated: July 27, 2010

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